

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3 (Cancelled).

4(Currently Amended). A ring seal with separable transport and assembly aid, comprising:

a rubber ring seal having a periphery;

a carrying frame extending about the periphery of said ring seal and including a plurality of frangible mounting lugs extending from said carrying frame and being embedded within[[into]] said ring seal and being separable from said carrying frame so that said carrying frame can be selectively detached from said ring seal with said mounting lugs remaining embedded within said ring seal.

5(Currently Amended). The ring seal with separable transport and assembly aid of claim 4, wherein said carrying frame is made of re-usable plastics or metal material.

6(Currently Amended). The ring seal with separable transport and assembly aid of claim 4, wherein said carrying frame is disposable.

7(Currently Amended). The ring seal with separable transport and assembly aid of claim 4, wherein said carrying frame is fabricated of a material selected from the group consisting of: wire, plastic or cardboard.

8(Currently Amended). The ring seal with separable transport and assembly aid of claim 4, wherein said ring seal is molded about said mounting lugs.

9(Currently Amended). The ring seal with separable transport and assembly aid of claim 4, wherein the carrying frame is fabricated [[form]]from a material different than that used to make said ring seal.

10(New). A method for producing, transporting and assembling a seal assembly, comprising:

providing a transport and assembly aid, said transport and assembly aid having a carrying frame with a plurality of frangible mounting lugs extending outwardly from said carrying frame;

Amendment in response to July 11, 2007 Office Action

molding a seal body to said mounting lugs in a molding machine with said mounting lugs being embedded within said seal body;

moving said carrying frame with said seal body molded thereto from the molding machine to a location for assembly of the seal body; and

breaking said carrying frame from said seal body with said mounting lugs remaining embedded in said seal body.

11(New). The method of claim 10 further including providing said carrying frame with a continuous periphery.

12(New). The method of claim 11 further including providing said mounting lugs at predetermined locations about said continuous periphery and molding said seal body completely about said periphery.

13(New). The method of claim 10 wherein said breaking step further includes breaking said carrying frame from said seal body in one piece.

14(New). The method of claim 10 wherein said molding step includes placing said transport and assembly aid in an injection molding machine and injection molding said seal body to said mounting lugs.